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WCC Plans New Social, Economic Aid Programme

(Geneva) - The "winds of change" sweeping across the world's under-developed countries introducing revolutionary new patterns of life, have brought in their wake no less pressing demands for revolutionary changes in the traditional patterns of church work in these areas. What form these new patterns should take has been the subject of an intensive four-year study by the World Council of Churches.

Its answer is a new programme - SASP, the initials standing for Specialized Assistance for Social Projects. Its object is to help the churches in these countries act more effectively in meeting the demands of their new situations. Its effect could result in radical shifts in programme in the churches' ministry to human need.

Plans for the programme, which has been authorized by the WCC's Executive Committee, were reported here with the announcement that the world body is seeking a total of \$100,000 each year for the next three years to get it under way.

Essentially what the programme will do is make available the resources of technically skilled personnel to churches in these areas to help them "think freshly about ways of using their existing resources more effectively".

One of these resources, as yet untapped in a majority of the newly-emerging nations, is its youth. It is expected that major emphasis will be on leadership training and development. At the same time there will be pioneer "demonstration projects" - new projects in agriculture, small industries and similar programmes.

The work in each country will be undertaken only at the request of the indigenous churches - and the goal will be to provide the necessary training for local leaders as quickly as possible so that they can take over and the "outside" personnel can be released for service elsewhere.

Because the needs of each country vary greatly, it is expected that the projects will be very different. However, work in each country will be preceded by consultation and careful study with local church leaders to work out the basic programme.

The SASP proposal grows out of a four-year study on "Our Common Christian Responsibility Toward Areas of Rapid Social Change". Under this programme local studies have already been conducted in India, Japan, Liberia, Kenya, the Copper Belt region of Northern Rhodesia, the Cameroons and Nigeria. There has also been a series of regional and international conferences.

The programme will be operated by the WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees. The plans for SASP were prepared in consultation by this Division and the Division of Studies, the Division of Ecumenical Action, the International Missionary Council and the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. SASP will be managed by a committee appointed by the Inter-Church Aid Division in consultation with these units.

The necessity for new types of work was explained by Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer, WCC associate general secretary and director of the Division of Studies which conducted the ground-work research for SASP.

During the first half of this century, he said, the millions of dollars poured into mission work in these areas went into what church leaders now think of as "traditional" types of assistance - especially in medicine, education and agriculture. While immense contributions to social development in mission work areas were made by these traditional services, he said, new forms are now needed.

Major factors contributing to the new situation, he said, are the disappearance of the colonial system, the new nationalism and the importance of governmental planning for economic development and education in new nations, the growth of big cities and industrial centres, and the great changes in village life. That the churches must find ways to meet these changed conditions was phrased by one SASP study as the necessity for the Church to find "new expressions of its great functions".

The same report noted that "the spirit of nationalism and independence in which we rejoice, and the problems of nation building, call upon the Church to rethink its prophetic role, and to consider new and relevant ways of service".

Another of the study papers commented: "All of our experience to date indicates that while the churches themselves (in areas of rapid social change) cannot provide the means for the solution of the great social and economic and political problems, true obedience demands that their witness should provide signs which point to the fulfilment of God's purpose in the new situation.

EPS, Geneva

WCC Official Stresses Economic Gap

(Philadelphia, Pa.) - The gulf between the world's "haves" and "have nots" is the greatest cause of unrest and will have to be substantially narrowed in the interest of international peace, Dr. Leslie E. Cooke, of Geneva, has told a meeting here.

Dr. Cooke, director of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches, addressed 1,500 delegates to the biennial General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches. (See p. 4)

He pictured the world's privileged one-third, virtually confined to Western Europe and North America, as having: 17 per cent more food than it needs; an average of almost two rooms per person; three-fourths of the world's doctors, and an average life span of 68 years.

By contrast, he said, the remaining two-thirds of the world's people, most of them in Asia, Africa and Latin America, have 24 per cent less than their food needs; housing that averages five persons to a room; one-fourth of the world's doctors and an average life span of 32 years.

"Three great words - peace, justice and freedom - are always on our lips, and are the slogans of politicians and pulpiteers", he added, "but Asians and Africans see the West as wanting them without any disturbance of the status quo of their own personal or national standards of living. We give of our surpluses, but we do not readily share our privileges. Such service may be our escape from acceptance of social responsibility, and it could be that such efforts as are now being made will prove too little and too late."

EPS, Geneva

Half Million Copies Sold of WCC Study Booklet

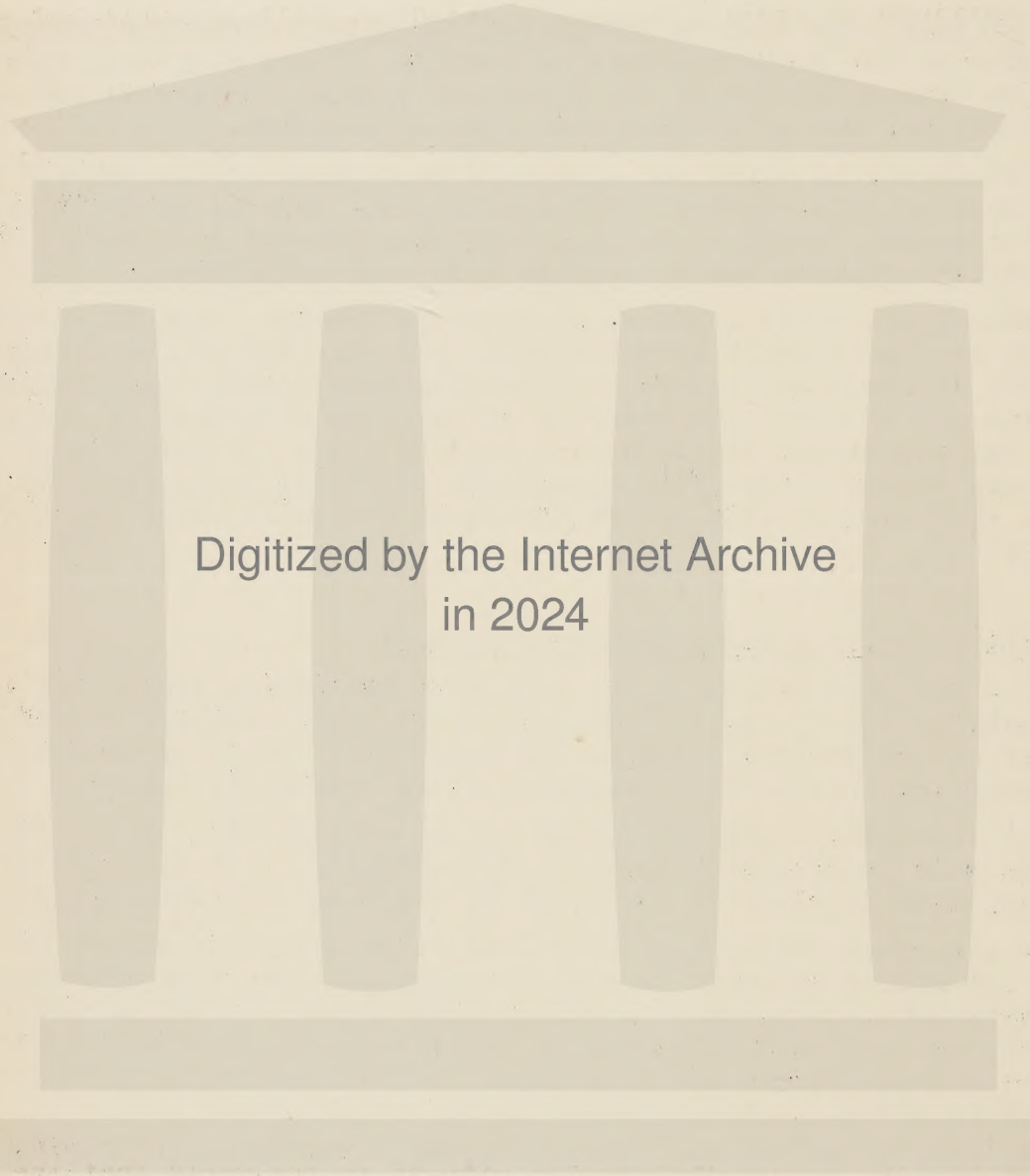
(Geneva) - The best seller in the religious publishing field this year, second only to the Bible, is the preparatory study booklet, "Jesus Christ - the Light of the World", published by the World Council of Churches for its Third Assembly, November 18 - December 6, in New Delhi, India.

More than half a million copies of the 76-page illustrated booklet have been sold to date in a total of 33 languages. It is believed the figure may rise to close to 1,000,000 by the time the Assembly opens.

The phenomenal sales are the result of an intensive effort by the WCC and its 176 member churches to make Assembly deliberations representative of the thinking of members of local congregations. Study groups throughout the world, now believed to number in the thousands, have been asked to communicate their recommendations based on study and discussion of the booklet to their official church delegates to the Assembly.

A preface to the booklet written by Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, WCC general secretary, notes that the churches meeting in New Delhi through their chosen delegates have their "real life in the local congregations, in the common worship and the working and living together of individual Christian men and women". Christians often ask "how they can play their part in this new ecumenical movement of our time", he writes. "Here is one opportunity."

The book, which takes its title from the theme of the Assembly, includes a treatment of the theme and its three sub-themes, Witness, Unity and Service, along with eight Bible studies and a section on the World Council called "The Local Task in the Total Vision".



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The largest number of copies has been sold in the WCC's three official languages - English, French and German. A total of 320,000 has been sold in English; 48,300 in German and 11,500 in French. The English language edition has also been published in Braille.

Other language editions include: Finnish, Danish, Bengali, Hindi, Italian, Thai, Urdu, Sinhalese, Dutch, Oriya, Spanish, Portuguese, Karen, Welsh, Tamil, Indonesian, Swedish, Norwegian, Assamese, Gujarati, Kannarese, Malayalam, Marathi, Telegu, Polish, Swahili, Chinese, Japanese, Burmese, and Greek. Editions in Arabic, Hungarian and Czech will be published within the next few months.

Copies have been sold in more than fifty countries, under auspices of member churches, including Eastern Europe. Five thousand have been sold in East Germany and a similar number in Poland. Copies are also on sale in Czechoslovakia. The largest number of sales in the English language edition has been in the United States - 200,000, followed by Great Britain with 75,000, Australia with 15,000 and New Zealand with 10,000. A total of 40,000 has been sold in Germany and about 4,000 in France. Switzerland, with a sale of 12,000, has sold the highest number in proportion to the number of its congregations.

EPS, Geneva

United Church of Christ Approves Its Constitution

(Philadelphia, Pa.) - The merger of two Protestant denominations with different theological traditions became a reality here when the constituting assembly of the United Church of Christ unanimously approved the constitution of the new denomination.

The new 2,000,000-member church, which has actually been in the process of formation since 1940, will be the seventh largest Protestant denomination in the United States. It represents the union of the Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed Churches, themselves the products of a merger a generation ago.

The E & R body is of European origin and is Presbyterian in polity, while the Congregational churches are of English and Puritan descent and have maintained the autonomy of the local congregations. The new constitution assures the continuance of local autonomy, but establishes representative lines of authority for governing national and regional church agencies.

Delegates elected the Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbst, 56, for a four-year term as the first president of the new body. Dr. Herbst will give up a thirty-year pastorate at the Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church, in nearby Norwood, to take up the presidency.

In a formal statement issued after his election, Dr. Herbst said that the church has the responsibility "to witness to the world that the ties that bind us together as Christians are much stronger than anything that separates us.

"If the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church, with all the differences of background, polity and traditions could come together and demonstrate such a spirit of unity as is evident here, ... there are few, if any, Christian denominations that cannot take such a step", he declared.

EPS, Geneva

Methodist Leader Attacks Australian Primate's Views on WCC

(Sydney) - A prominent Australian Methodist leader has declared that he "cannot recall a single instance" in which the World Council of Churches has sought to exercise "control" over its member denominations.

The Rev. B.R. Wyllie of Sydney, long associated with the Australian Council of Churches, made the remark in reply to criticisms made against the WCC by the Most Rev. Hugh Rowland Gough, Anglican Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia.

The primate's presidential address to the New South Wales Provincial Synod, which was read in his absence because of illness by the Bishop of Armindale, had charged that "there were some who, in spite of repeated denials, give the impression by their actions that the World Council is a body which controls".

In reply, Mr. Wyllie, who is a former president of the Methodist Conference of Australia, noted that the "WCC has affirmed again and again to the churches in every country where the ecumenical movement is established that it is not directly concerned with the union of particular denominations".

"Throughout the Western world, as well as in Asia and Africa, there are encouraging signs that the churches are responding to the call of Christ for this generation and are considering the possibility of union", he said.

"Here surely is great cause for thankfulness to Almighty God; but in no single case can it be shown that the leaders of these movements toward union are acting through, or on behalf of, the WCC. Their inspiration has in many cases come directly from their experiences in the fellowship of the WCC, but they are acting strictly as Presbyterians, Anglicans, Methodists or Congregationalists in the overtures towards union with other denominations", he said.

Noting that he has been associated with groups concerned with the proposed union of three denominations in Australia, Mr. Wyllie observed: "The impression I have gained is not that the churches are afraid of being hurried into union by a 'super church', but rather that union may be delayed so long that it will not be easy to recover the evangelistic opportunities that we are now losing."

EPS, Geneva

Austrian Parliament Adopts New Protestant Law

(Vienna) - The Austrian Parliament has unanimously adopted a new law which grants full autonomy to the Evangelical Church in Austria and gives it the same legal status as other churches in the country.

The new law, which supersedes the Protestant Charter of 1861, is the outcome of efforts carried on by the Evangelical Church since 1921 to place its relations with the State on a proper legal basis.

Under the terms of the law, the church is guaranteed the right to raise funds from among its members, and to spend them as it wishes. It is further guaranteed the right to form ecumenical contacts and to participate as a member of the World Council of Churches or other ecumenical bodies.

The law also assures protection for the property, ministry and office-holders of the church. Moreover, it agrees that any laws or ordinances affecting the legal status of the church shall first be presented to it for approval.

The law further provides that the church will receive an annual subsidy from the State in compensation for the claims of which it was deprived under National Socialism. At present, this amounts to 6,500,000 Austrian shillings (more than US\$ 215,000) a year.

Describing the new act as "a model settlement for contemporary relations between Church and State", Evangelical Bishop Gerhard May of Vienna, particularly noted that the law supports the church's right to participate in the ecumenical movement. "This is something completely new", he said. "It is the first time that the ecumenical movement has been mentioned in any law passed in a European country."

On the one hand, it recognizes that the Evangelical Church is a member of world-wide Protestantism, he noted. On the other, it may represent the beginning of ecumenical legislation. "This means that the law has an importance which extends far beyond the boundaries of the Austrian churches", Bishop May remarked.

EPS, Geneva

Swiss Churches Discuss Proposed Change in WCC Basis

(Zurich) - Delegates of the Swiss Protestant Federation to the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches in New Delhi, next November, will not be instructed about how they should vote on the proposed change in the World Council's Basis.

A recent Federation meeting made the decision when it voted against a motion proposing that delegates be instructed to abstain from voting on the issue.

However, the Federation urged that their delegates make it clear to the Assembly that continued membership of the Swiss churches in the WCC, should the new Basis be adopted, would not imply a modification of the Swiss churches' doctrinal position.

Earlier in a poll on the Basis proposal to which 17 of the Federation's 22 member churches replied, 11 voted in favour of the change, five rejected it and one gave a "conditional yes".

The discussion is a continuation of a debate which began in the Swiss churches when the Basis was first adopted and has been ~~carried~~ on with increasing fervour since then. It centres around the concern of the churches that approval of the proposed new Basis would jeopardize the Swiss churches' constitution which states that they are not identified with any particular doctrine. They fear that membership in the World Council, if the new Basis is adopted, would infringe this freedom.

The present Basis for membership is based upon acceptance of "our Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour". The new Basis, which proponents say would only make explicit what has always been implicit in the present Basis, would declare: "The World Council is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfill together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit".

EPS, Geneva

Vatican Council Seen as Aid to Christian Unity

(New York) - The forthcoming Second Vatican (Ecumenical) Council will put "the whole Church on a vast spiritual retreat" and promises to have a profound effect on the movement for Christian unity.

This prediction was made at a press conference here by the Rev. Thomas F. Stransky, C.S.P., an American priest on the permanent staff of the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.

Father Stransky said that at the present stage of the drive for unity, "this internal reform of the church is the greatest service it can render to the ecumenical movement". He stressed that Pope John's decision to call the council shows that the church is conscious of its imperfections on the human side. He said the council will help to clear the way for unity by clarifying the church's own image both to Catholics and non-Catholics.

The creation of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity means that non-Catholics who want to communicate with the Vatican now have "a place to go", he said. Correspondingly, the creation of the World Council of Churches has made it easier for Catholics to communicate with many Christians outside their communion.

Pointing out that the union of the churches may seem impossible if the problem is viewed purely on the logical, theoretical and intellectual levels, Father Stransky added: "But we are dealing with human persons filled with grace. We work not on the unstable ground of abstract human possibilities, but on the solid, immovable base of the power of God.

"The fact of a division among Christians is, in one way or another, the fault of both us and our separated brethren, at least in so far as we lack a truly living and personal faith, a profound hope and confidence, a sincere charity, and a life according to the example which Christ has given us. If we wish to promote Christian unity, we must pardon each other our mutual faults, pray together for the unity of Christ's Church, and, above all, always humbly place all our hopes in God. For it is God's economy of salvation, God's Kingdom, God's power and glory for ever and ever."

EPS, Geneva

Greek Bishops to Attend WCC New Delhi Assembly

(Athens) - The Synod of the Orthodox Church of Greece has reversed an earlier decision and has decided to send several metropolitans, bishops and other clergy as its representatives to the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches in New Delhi, India, next November.

In 1957, the Synod had agreed that the Orthodox Church would be represented at future WCC gatherings only by lay theologians and not by members of the clergy. This decision aroused considerable discussion at the time. (See EPS No. 24, 1957)

The Synod's latest action has been regarded in the Greek press as a sign that the Orthodox Church was placing fresh confidence in the World Council and its aims. The Athens daily, Ethnos, observed that the decision is also a consequence of "the official application for membership sent to the WCC" by the Church of Russia.

The Greek Church's delegation will include the Metropolitans of Edessa, Mytilene, Drama and Kythera, the Bishop of Achaia, Archimandrite Kotsonis, and 10 university professors.

EPS, Geneva

Ethiopian Orthodox Establish Theological College

(Addis Ababa) - A new theological college has been established here with the approval of Emperor Haile Selassie to provide education at the university level for the clergy of the Ethiopian Church.

The new institution, known as the Theological College of the Holy Trinity, is being headed by Bishop Terenig Poladian of the Armenian Holy Apostolic Church, who formerly served for 11 years as dean of the Armenian Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon.

Bishop Poladian, who has represented his church at numerous ecumenical gatherings, said in his inaugural address that students of the college and its affiliated institutions will be carefully chosen from all parts of Ethiopia. "The quality rather than the quantity will be stressed", he declared, "for it is much better to prepare a small band of learned clergymen who can open new realms of truth and power, than have big groups of them lacking dynamism, insight, perseverance and profundity".

Elementary and secondary schools, as well as a teachers' training institute, are presently affiliated with the college. The new institution itself will offer a four-year course in religious, Biblical and philosophical studies. EPS, Geneva

Edinburgh Presbytery Votes Against Visit to Pope

(Edinburgh) - The Edinburgh Presbytery has voted against the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rev. Dr. A.C. Craig, paying a courtesy call on the Pope when he visits Rome early next year.

The denomination's last General Assembly had authorized its interchurch relations committee, in cooperation with the General Administration Committee and Colonial and Continental Committee, to study the advisability of such a visit.

However, in presenting the motion to the Edinburgh Presbytery, the Rev. J. Blair Gillon reported that he had been informed that if the visit were made some members would leave the church and attach themselves to another denomination whose attitude would be more in keeping with the Scottish Protestant tradition. The motion was carried by a vote of 90 to 79.

The Presbytery of Glasgow, the largest in the Church of Scotland, earlier voted against the visit until the presbyteries had voiced their feelings about the matter. The Presbytery of Inverness has also voiced its opposition to the proposal. It is now believed likely that the visit will not take place, although actions of the presbyteries are not binding upon the moderator. EPS, Geneva

LWF Sets Up Liaison Service for Underdeveloped Countries

(Geneva) - The Lutheran World Federation is planning to establish a liaison service in an effort to increase its assistance to the underdeveloped countries of Asia and Africa. This new service, which will be organized by LWF's Departments on World Mission and World Service, will advise young churches in these areas of their social and economic responsibilities and will pass on their requests for financial aid to various relief organizations.

The joint committee for this new programme will consist of two representatives of the Department of World Mission and two from the Department of World Service. It will be directed by the Federation's general secretary.
EPS, Geneva

Rumanian Orthodox Church Will Seek WCC Membership

(Geneva) - The Rumanian Orthodox Church will apply for membership in the World Council of Churches, it has been announced in Geneva by Metropolitan Justin of Moldavia on behalf of His Beatitude Patriarch Justinin of Bucharest.

Metropolitan Justin and four other Orthodox leaders are in this city on an official five-day visit to World Council headquarters, en route home from the recent enthronement of the new Archbishop of Canterbury in England.

The Rumanian leader said that the application is being made because his church is eager to take a more active role in the ecumenical movement.

The application will be acted upon by the World Council's Third Assembly in New Delhi, November 18 - December 6, along with the applications for membership of the Russian Orthodox Church and approximately eight churches in other parts of the world. A two-thirds vote of member churches present is required to approve the application.

The Orthodox Church in Rumania represents an estimated 72 per cent of the country's 16,000,000 population. If the application is approved, the church will be the fourth Rumanian church in the WCC. Now members are the Hungarian Lutheran Church in Rumania, the Protestant Evangelical Church of the Augsburgian Confession and the Transylvanian Reformed Church.

Others in the party visiting the WCC are His Eminence Maximos, Metropolitan of Sardis, representing the Ecumenical Patriarch; His Eminence Joseph, Metropolitan of Varna and Preslav of the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, Professor Moisescu of the Rumanian Church and Deacon Gabriel of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

It is the first official visit of Bulgarian and Rumanian Orthodox leaders to the WCC and according to the Rev. Francis House, WCC associate general secretary, is "an important stage in strengthening the ties which unite the Orthodox world with the World Council". Mr. House recently made a three weeks' visit to Bulgaria and Rumania.

Metropolitan Maximos, speaking on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarch, said that the Orthodox leader has consistently sought increased and fruitful contacts between the World Council and Orthodox churches.

He announced that the World Council will be invited to send observers to the Pan-Orthodox meeting in September on the Island of Rhodes. Similar invitations will also be sent to non-Orthodox churches in the East, including the Coptic, Ethiopian, the Jacobite and Armenian, and also to the Anglican and Old Catholic churches, he said. Metropolitan Maximos is chairman of the Pan-Christian (Ecumenical) Committee of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Metropolitan Joseph brought greetings to the World Council on behalf of His Holiness Patriarch Cyril of Bulgaria and assured WCC leaders of his church's "warm feelings of friendship and confidence" in the WCC and of its prayers for its work. He said his church will send observers to the WCC's Assembly.

During their visit the Orthodox leaders are also meeting with leaders of various other international Christian organizations headquartered here, including the World Presbyterian Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation, the YMCA, the YWCA, and the World Student Christian Federation.

EPS, Geneva

Authorities Ban Kirchentag Meetings in East Berlin

(Berlin) - The East German chief of police has announced that "in order to ensure peace and order" he will not permit any sessions of the 10th biennial Kirchentag - or German Church Day Congress - to be held in the Eastern Sector of Berlin.

Kirchentag officials announced immediately that they would confer with East Berlin authorities on the ruling. The Kirchentag opens Wednesday.

It had been planned to have several church services, as well as discussion groups, exhibitions, a children's "Kirchentag", choir and organ concerts, and various other events in East Berlin.

The announcement by the East German authorities did not make it clear whether the worship services or other meetings to be held in church buildings were among the events to be banned. It seemed certain, however, that gatherings in other places would not be permitted.

The East German Railways previously announced that it would not permit special trains that would have travelled through the East Zone to take West Germans to the Kirchentag.

However, Kirchentag officials said the action would not hamper the flow of West Germans to Berlin since 150 buses and 23 chartered planes would carry participants to the Congress.

The railway's decision against the special trains appeared to contradict an earlier statement by Hans Seigewasser, East German secretary of state for church affairs, who said it was not in his government's interest to "make difficulties" for West Germans in transit to Berlin. (See EPS No. 18)

EPS, Geneva

Dr. Fry, Bishop Manikam Barred from East Germany

(Berlin) - Two officials of the Lutheran World Federation were refused entry visas by East German authorities when they sought to enter the zone after attending a meeting of the LWF executive committee in Warsaw, Poland.

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, LWF president and chairman of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, had sought to visit Griefswald where he had been invited to preach by Bishop Friedrich W. Krummacker, chairman of the East German Evangelical Bishops' Conference.

Bishop Rajah J. Manikam of Tranquebar, India, one of the three vice-presidents of the LWF executive committee, was also denied permission to enter the zone. He had sought to go to Halle-an-der-Saale where he was to have received an honorary degree of doctor of theology. EPS, Geneva

In Brief

Bishop Otto Dibelius has expressed regret on behalf of Berlin Protestants over the Vatican's decision to transfer Julius Cardinal Doepfner from the Berlin to the Munich Diocese. Bishop Dibelius noted that during Cardinal Doepfner's 10 years in the city, they had maintained close relations based upon mutual respect and tolerance. Cardinal Doepfner, 47, is the youngest member of the College of Cardinals, and is a member of the Central Commission for the Preparation of the Second Vatican (Ecumenical) Council.

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A new law will be drafted shortly in Indonesia making it a crime to take actions aimed at undermining religion, according to a report by the Far East News Service. The Service quoted a government official who said that whereas the constitution provides freedom of religion, it does not provide freedom to act against religion.

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The motion picture "Question Seven" produced by a US Lutheran-sponsored association has been awarded the Berlin Festival Prize of the International Catholic Film Office. The film depicts present-day pressures against a Protestant minister and his son in East Germany. The film was produced by Louis de Rochemont Associates for Lutheran Film Associates, New York.

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The theme "Christ Today" has been chosen for the Fourth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, to be held July 30 to August 11, 1963, in Helsinki, Finland.

* * *

A decision to apply for membership in the World Council of Churches has been made by the 36,000-member Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, popularly known as the Suomi Synod. Delegates to the church's recent annual convention voted 138 to 47 in favour of the step. The Finnish body will merge **organically** next year with the American Evangelical, Augustana and United Lutheran churches, all three of which are WCC members, into a new denomination to be called the Lutheran Church in America.

* * *

Fifty years of Christian witness in Viet-Nam were commemorated in special ceremonies held recently in Saigon by the National Vietnamese Evangelical Church. Work in the country was started in 1911 by the Christian and Missionary Alliance. In 1942 the church was officially recognized by the government and today it is completely self-governing and self-supporting. In addition to numerous programmes, it supports 100 tribal congregations in outlying mountainous areas.

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Students at the Anglican theological college in Vancouver have formed a group of "shock troops" to serve the Church "at any time, in any place, and in any way". Eighteen students have already enlisted in the movement, which is called RFA - "Ready For Anything". They have urged other theological colleges in Canada to form similar groups.

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The Madrid Radio has reported that 50 more Spanish priests and nuns are bound for Spain after being expelled from Cuba. The first contingent of 300 reached Corunna at the end of June. Among them was a group of enclosed nuns who had not left their convents for 40 years.

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Dr. Nobushige Ukai, an internationally-recognized authority on constitutional law, has been appointed president of the International Christian University in Japan. He succeeds Dr. Hachiro Yuasa, first president of the school who is retiring after a decade of service.

* * *

Ralph C. Young of Toronto, Canada, has been named to succeed the Rev. Hans-Ruedi Weber as executive secretary of the Department on the Laity of the World Council of Churches. Mr. Young, whose appointment becomes effective November 1, has served as head of men's work for the United Church of Canada for the last 10 years. Mr. Weber will become associate director of the WCC's Ecumenical Institute at Bossey near Geneva.

* * *

A Centre of Ecumenical Studies will be opened at St. Michael's College in Toronto next Fall. The centre, which will foster studies in Christian unity, will be headed by the Rev. Gregory Baum, a Basilian priest who is the youngest member and only Canadian on the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.

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An ecumenical study group has been established on the Island of Mauritius. It includes Anglicans, Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Lutherans, who are studying the eight Bible studies prepared for the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which will be held in New Delhi, India, from November 18 - December 6.

* * *

Giovanni Radice, an English teacher in the secondary school at Benevento, Italy, has been barred from teaching in Italian state schools for two years because he read and explained certain passages in "Paradise Lost" by Protestant poet John Milton. The Milan section of the Society for Religious Liberty in Italy has protested against this "persecution by the administration for religious motives".

EPS, Geneva

Erratum: page 5 - Armindale should read Armidale